



MADAME MAYOR

ALL THAT
MATTERS

APRIL 2009

IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER

SMART MAYOR - SMART GRID

Mayor Lukes announced during a press conference at Clark University her support of National Grid's proposal to build and operate a Smart Grid Pilot Program in Worcester.

The Pilot, which will involve about 15,000 customers, is the largest and most comprehensive plan in New England.

The two-year Pilot is the first step toward creating a more efficient, environmentally responsible modern grid.

Mayor Lukes says, "The Pilot is good news for Worcester; it positions the city as a community participating in exciting, new, cutting-edge technology that provides residents in the Pilot area the knowledge to make choices that will reduce their electric bills.

It also advances the mission of the Energy Task Force's Climate Action Plan to reduce energy consumption, reduce greenhouse

gas emissions and increase the use of clean, renewable energy, all while reducing Worcester's carbon footprint." Clark University will be a Pilot participant.

Massachusetts is interested in accessing the \$4.5 billion in stimulus funding allocated to Smart Grid.

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world.



Mayor Lukes speaks at Clark University during the Smart Grid Press Conference.

SAVE
MONEY



SAVE
ENERGY

Rain barrels are available at a discounted price from the City Department of Public Works. Save on watering your lawn and garden! The DPW number is 508.929.1300

DR. BOONE IS GUEST OF HONOR

During one of her recent visits to Worcester, incoming Superintendent **Dr. Melinda Boone** was the Guest of Honor at a reception given by **Mayor Konnie Lukes**.

The reception gave **Dr. Boone** the opportunity to talk to members of the School Committee, meet the City Manager and discuss pressing issues with City Officials and representatives of several Worcester organizations.

Dr. Boone was accompanied on this trip by her sister Vivian P. Pruden and eldest daughter Regina D. Boone, who plan on helping **Dr. Boone** decide on and move into appropriate housing for her tenure in Worcester.

Dr. Boone replaces Superintendent **Dr. James Caradonio** who retired last year.



**Mayor Konstantina B. Lukes and
Dr. Melinda Boone**



MAYOR LUKES BRINGS **FREE** ENERGY SEMINARS TO WORCESTER

Mayor Lukes has scheduled **free** seminars for Worcester residents through the Massachusetts Mayors Association.

The seminars teach **free** or low cost methods of comfortably using less electricity, water and heating fuel. They also address **free** home energy audits, rebates and financing available through **MassSAVE**.

Each seminar runs for approximately two hours, but follow-up questions often extend the sessions.

Home Energy Savings Seminar for Retirees teaches residents the most effective ways to reduce energy use and costs.

Seminar time and date for Retirees:

April 22 @ 1pm

Worcester Senior Center

128 Providence Street , Worcester

Home Energy Savings Seminar for Residents workshop provides do-it-yourself sealing techniques; information on the most cost effective upgrades; tips on reducing electricity and water usage, as well as resources for home energy audits, rebates and financing upgrades. A slideshow and **free** educational materials illustrate hands-on tips.

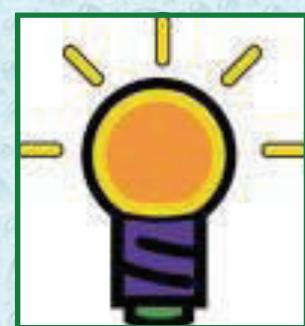
Seminar time and date for Residents:

May 11 @ 6pm

Home Ownership Center

674 Main Street, Worcester

Seminars are
FREE
to Worcester
residents -
light refreshments
will be served.



For more energy efficiency ideas, log onto <http://www.mma.org/> or <http://www.masssave.com>

WORCESTER NAMED MOST LIVEABLE CITY!!



Bill Shields from WBZ TV discusses Worcester's award with Mayor Lukes

Forbes.com recently published an article by Zack O'Malley Greenburg, 'America's Most Livable Cities' where Greenburg looked at several quality of life measures and after crunching the data, declared Worcester, Massachusetts to be 'The 9th Most Livable City in America!' Read the full story at forbes.com/2009/04/01/cities-city-ten-lifestyle-real-estate-livable-cities_slide_8.html?thisSpeed=30000

Meanwhile...

The Journal of New England Technology did a similar study and reported that "A recent report based on U.S. Census data has ranked Worcester among the top 30 midsize metro areas for quality of life." Follow the link to the full story at masshightech.com/stories/2009/03/23/daily41-Worcester-Manchester-Bridgeport-top-quality-of-life-study.html

This is all good news but nothing new for Worcester which has been named an All American City five times! The award is the oldest community recognition program in the nation and is awarded by the National Civic League.

Worcester won the prestigious award in the first year of its inception in 1949, then again in 1960, 1965, 1980 and again in 2000. That record places Worcester in the All American City Hall of Fame.

PAPER VS PLASTIC

Mayor Lukes recently submitted an item into the City Council agenda requesting that the City examine the effect of banning the use of plastic bags at local grocery stores.

Mayor Lukes noted that more people are opting for re-usable canvas store brand bags that don't have a detrimental effect on the environment.

Cities across the country are moving toward ordinances banning the use of the thin plastic bags that have become such an environmental hazard.

To read about the environmental effects of plastic bags, go to:

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNPubs/TheDangersofPlasticBags.pdf>



Unlike most plastic bags which do not decompose and end up in landfills, the City of Worcester yellow trash bags are partially made of recycled materials and are incinerated at Wheelabrator Technologies, on Route 20 in Worcester.

The energy from the 2K degree incinerator is converted into steam which in turn powers electric turbines and the power is forwarded to the electric grid.

Wheelabrator Technologies complies with all State and Federal regulations for renewable energy. Visit their web site at <http://www.wheelabratortechnologies.com/index.htm>

IRISH ADVANCE TEAM

Mayor Konstantina B. Lukes met with an Advance Team from Boston and Ireland to review the initial plans for the Memorial Day visit of Irish President Mary McAleese.

President McAleese and her entourage of thirty are traveling to Worcester to lay a wreath at the Barre Granite, Celtic Cross on the Front Street side of Worcester City Hall. The Cross is a memorial to the early Irish settlers, their descendants and all the Irish-Americans who have given so much to the City of Worcester.

President McAleese will begin her visit with a private meeting with **Mayor Lukes** in the Mayor's office, after which a public exchange of gifts and good wishes will take place in the Levi Lincoln Chamber at City Hall.

President McAleese will then lay a wreath at the Cross before continuing to Boston.

Traveling with the Advance Team were members of the U.S. Secret Service as well as **Consul General David Barry** and **Vice Consul Ms. Deirdre Ni Phalluin** from the Irish

Consulate General in Boston. **Ms. Kathleen White**, Chief of Protocol from the Office of Protocol in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, Ireland and **Mr. Patrick Duffy** from the same office added to the planning. Joining the group was **Mr. Laurence Simms** from the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C.



Ms. Deirdre Ni Phalluin with Mayor Lukes and Consul General David Barry



Mayor Lukes introduces Lucy Gangone

WELCOME LUCY GANGONE

Mayor Lukes introduced Ms. Lucy Bethel Gangone, a Worcester resident and the new Head Librarian of the Worcester Public Library, to a crowd of well wishers during a reception at Worcester City Hall.

Ms. Gangone has had a diverse career and was most recently Director of the Sumter County Library System, a cooperative of community libraries in Central Florida.

Ms. Gangone has been an active participant in library associations throughout her career, and held the office of Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the New England Library Association.

Lucy was the recipient of the 2006 Emerson Greenaway Award from the New England Library Association for distinguished service to the library profession in New England.

Ms. Gangone was the champion of the New England Library Leadership Symposium, a unique program to develop and explore the potential of new librarians for leadership roles in library associations and the library profession.

You are invited to write to Mayor Lukes at mayor@ci.worcester.ma.us.
You can also find Mayor Lukes on the City of Worcester Web site www.ci.worcester.ma.us.